

Rocky Mountain Power late-fee plan is under fire in Wyoming

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CHEYENNE, Wyo. - Some consumer advocates in Wyoming oppose a proposal from Rocky Mountain Power to charge fees for late or unpaid bills.

The utility intends to pursue a similar policy in Utah when it files its next general rate case, which is expected later this year.

"Our customers as a whole should not be expected to subsidize the cost of providing power for a customer who continually does not pay their bill," company spokesman Jeff Hymas said.

The utility paid \$61,000 to collection agencies in 2006.

Under Rocky Mountain Power's plan, customers wouldn't incur collection fees if they paid their bills up to 75 days late in some cases. Customers could avoid collection fees and have their power restored if they pay at least half the bill and a security deposit.

But if a customer doesn't pay the bill and the account is closed, Rocky Mountain Power wants to collect the debt and a fee.

The amount would depend on the age of the debt.